

# FACT SHEET | Strengthening Critical Infrastructure

*2015 Budget for a Better Minnesota*

---

This year, Governor Dayton and the Minnesota Legislature invested in critical infrastructure projects statewide, creating an estimated 10,600 Minnesota jobs. This Jobs Bill helps address some of the state's critical infrastructure needs, while strengthening Minnesota's economy and getting people back to work.

## Agricultural Research Investments

- **Modern Agricultural Labs** – The Jobs Bill signed by Governor Dayton invests \$18 million to replace two obsolete veterinary laboratories. The resources fund a new veterinary isolation facility at the University of Minnesota to meet new disease challenges; including avian influenza, and help Minnesota become a leader in infectious disease research.
- **Willmar Poultry Testing Laboratory** – The Governor and Legislature invested \$8.5 million in improvements to the University of Minnesota poultry testing laboratory in Willmar. Upgrading the facilities and equipment will help the lab diagnose and test for avian influenza and other diseases.

## Critical Investments in Minnesota Students

- **Health and Science Workforce Development** – The Jobs Bill signed by Governor Dayton allocates \$18.8 million for the construction of a 39,000 square-foot addition at Saint Paul College for allied health and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education.
- **Powerline Technology Job Training** – To improve job training opportunities, the Governor and the Legislature invested \$2.4 million to construct an indoor training facility for the Powerline Technician program at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Jackson.
- **Transportation and Emerging Technologies** – The Jobs Bill signed by Governor Dayton includes \$7.7 million to renovate approximately 68,000 square feet for heavy truck and construction repair, biomedical lab, and construct electrician and nanotechnology spaces at Dakota County Community and Technical College.
- **Automotive and Manufacturing Training** – Governor Dayton and the Legislature invested \$2.1 million to renovate automotive technician and manufacturing technology classrooms at Anoka Technical College.

## Water Infrastructure Projects

- **Lewis & Clark Water System** – The Governor and Legislature invested \$19 million in the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System to deliver water to City of Magnolia and the Lincoln-Pipestone Regional Water System. It funds design and engineering to deliver water to the City of Worthington to meet growing needs of businesses and residents.
- **Flood Mitigation** – To address flooding and high-water conditions in Otter Tail County the Jobs Bill signed by Governor Dayton provides a \$10 million grant to make infrastructure improvements for flood mitigation. The legislation also includes an additional \$13.5 million for other flood mitigation projects across Minnesota.

## Transportation Improvements

- **Highway 53 Relocation** – The Jobs Bill signed by Governor Dayton includes \$140 million to complete the relocation of Highway 53 near Virginia. Shifting the highway will allow for the expansion of taconite mining in the region and support the state's economy.
- **Rail Grade Separations** – Every day, trains carrying oil and other hazardous materials pass through Minnesota. These trains present real risks to public safety and our natural resources. To improve railway safety, the Governor and Legislature invested in rail grade separation projects in Willmar, Plymouth, and Ranier.

## Disaster Relief

- **Disaster Relief Funding** – The Governor and Legislature allocated \$25.5 million in disaster relief funding for ongoing needs resulting from statewide flooding in June 2014. The funding will be used to restore flood-damaged land and infrastructure and support flood mitigation projects.

## Preserving Minnesota's Treasures

- **Minnesota State Capitol Restoration** – Governor Dayton and the Legislature allocated \$32.9 million to complete the Minnesota State Capitol restoration project. The funding will be used to mitigate leaks, address settling issues, make needed security improvements, and repair the south steps.
- **Fort Snelling Visitor Center** – The visitor center at Fort Snelling is more than three decades old and is poorly designed. To improve the facility, the 2015 Jobs Bill signed by the Governor includes \$500,000 for project pre-design; contributing to the eventual replacement of the facility.

## Quality Housing Investments

- **Housing Infrastructure** – Governor Dayton and the Legislature allocated \$10 million to continue the investment in housing infrastructure needs across the state. The funding is awarded through a competitive process to support the housing needs of the homeless, acquire and rehab foreclosed and vacant properties, and preserve affordable housing.